A LEISURE HOUR'S READING

THE AVENGER.

The editor is sitting
In his sky-parlor 'neath the roof,
Of an article on tariff
He is weaving out the woof;
On the table do his brightly
Burnished boot heels rest,
While an 18-carat watch chain
Hangs across his ample vest.

An aged man and pallid
Slowly climbs the iron stairs;
And at every labored footstep
Softly to himself he swears.
In his pocket is a "statement,"
Brightly gleams his azure eye—
He will get a full retraction
Or "find out the reason why."

* * * * * * *

The editor's still working
At his article so learned,
No footfalls break the silence.
The lights are downward turned.
The office bulldog's playing
With some fragments of Spring pants—
The old man with the statement
Was forgiven half a chance.

—Cleveland Leader.

AN AUDIENCE OF ONE.

Kummet, the actor, tells the following story of how he once played to an audience of one in a theatre at Columbus, Ohio:

After two of three performances the posters announced a matinee. I went to the theatre at 2 o'clock that afternoon and found my company skylarking behind the curtain, in their everyday suits. I looked out in the auditorium. There was just one man in the theatre. He sat clear back in the parquet. It was as much as I could do to outline him in the darkness. I went out to the box office. "Did that man pay for his ticket?" I asked. "Yes, fifty cents," the treasurer replied. "The manager told me to return him his money and close the theatre." "No, you won't," I said. "I have never disappointed an audience when I'm sober, and I don't propose to do so now. We'll play for him." I went into the parquet, introduced myself to the man, and thanked him for his attendance. I told him that as he had thought enough of me to come and see me and pay fifty cents for the privilege, he should have as good a performance as though the house was packed. I then went behind the curtain and requested the company to dress. "Great Cæsar, Jec" one of them said, "you ain't going to play to that one man, are you?" "Yes, I am," I replied. "He's paid his money, and he shall have his money's worth." "Oh, the deuce," broke in another member of the company, "I'll pay his fifty cents and you let him go." I told them that the performance must go on as usual, and I warned each one that any attempt to guy the ordinance or any failure to play a part in full would be a signal for a discharge.

Well, the orchestra played an overture and the curtain arose. I walked down to the footlights and invited the audience to come forward and take a front seat, where he could see and be seen. He thanked me and settled himself in the front row. I suggested that a little generous applause thrown in where he thought the actors deserved it would serve to inspirit them and warm them to their work. He seemed to appreciate the situation and agreed to give us all the encouragement that he thought that we deserved. The performance began. I don't think I ever played better, threw myself heart and soul into the character, and sang the "Lullaby" so tenderly that the entire audience was in tears. He called for an encore. I told him that we rarely gave an encore, but as this was an extraordinary occasion he should have one. He applauded liberally at times where no applause was deserved, and again failed to applaud where applause was deserved. At such times I called his attention to the omission, and asked whether on reflection he did not really think that he had made a mistake. A hint was sufficient. He would clap his hands as though perfectly enchanted and shout "Bravo!" like an Italian over Salvini. The company paid no attention to him, but went on with the performance as regular as clock work. Between the acts, however, one or two of them evinced a disposition to go out into the auditorium and mingle with the audience. I set my face against it and they refrained. At the close of the second act the manager entered the theatre. He had been out for a walk. He seemed dumbfounded at seeing the house brilliantly lighted, and the orchestra playing soberly to one man. But he was more astonished when the curtain arose and the performance was resumed with as much unconcern as though there was a thousand dollars in the house. But he had an eye to business. He sent word to the newspaper reporters, and a half a dozen of them arrived in time for the last act. No actor ever received better newspaper criticisms. Some of them were over a column long. It turned out that the audience was the owner of a copper mine in Michigan, and very wealthy. On the following night he gave the whole company a banquet at the leading hotel. He entertained us as handsomely as we had entertained him, and we parted with mutual regrets. Just a year afterward I announced another matinee at Columbus. I was well advertised, and the house was packed to suffocation. I took in over $1,200. My sense of duty to that one man, who had invested the small sum of half a dollar, had returned to me a golden harvest.

The Memphis (Wis.) *Press* says: A. Granger, Esq., of this city, uses St. Jacobs Oil on his horses with decided success and profit.

THE INTERNAL MONOPOLIES.

"Nee Orleans will be a great place, Misder Hoffenstein," said Herman, "ven de railroads will be running here from the Vest und oder parts of dis country, von't it?"

"Herman, don't talk to me about de railroads," replied Hoffenstein; "it makes me dink of dem. I haf been swindled by dem. Vonce I did dink it would be nice to haf a horse to drive mit a buggy, und a man dells me dot he will sell me von, und me make a drade. Vat you dink, Herman, I gif for de horse?"

"I don't know, Misder Hoffenstein."

"Vell, den, I vill dell you. I got him cheap. I gif dree dollars und a viddle. After I got de horse I finds dot he haf de vorms, und don't can do nothing but hang his under lip down, und sleep all de day. Vile I vas trying to get de horse vell, de railroad cars came along und kill him. I makes oud my claims against de railroad people, und I dells dem dot dey haf killed my buggy horse and dat he vas vert a hundred dollars. Von of de railroad men dell me dot he vill convesdigate de matter, und to come back de next week. Ven I goes back I says 'I haf come around to get de money for my horse vat you kill mit de cars.' Vot you dink, Herman, de man says? 'Ve don't can pay you nading. Ve haf shust found oud dat de killing up your horse vas not an accident. He vanted to commit suicide und got on de drack und vaited for de drain to run over him. De law says you don't can get damages from a railroad under dese circumstances; derefore, my dear sir, your claim vos vort nothing.' My gr-ra-cious, Herman, dink how I vos swindled by de railroad, de infernal monoply; but I got even mit dem any vay. I heard a man say dot a railroad drain vould get sgared und stop if dey saw a red light at night, und I dinks ufer vot he says. Vell, my house vas near vere de railroad vas, und a blind mule dat don't belong to no von vas loafing around. After a vile I dinks uf someding, und I get a red lamp von night, und ties it mit de mule's neck, und dock him vere de railroad runs. I leaves him dere. My gr-ra-cious, Herman, all dot night de drains vas visiling und slopping und patting de brakes on, und de gonductor he swear at eferyding vile he smashes de lamp und makes de mule go vay. Efery night for a gouple of vecks I tied a red lamp mit de mule's neck, und send him up de railroad drack. Ven he hears de visile, und de drain slops, he knows he vill get beat mit sticks if he slops dere, und he runs avay. Dot mule after a vile learned his pisness und he vould go oud und slop efery drain vat run on de road."—*New Orleans Times.*

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

When winter is passing into summer, and summer into winter again, your health should be especially looked to. The humors which have accumulated in your blood should be cleansed away and your system toned up to guard against bilious fever, or other sickness peculiar to the change of season. Dr. David Kennedy's "Favorite Remedy" will do this for you. Get a bottle now and begin using it at once. A long fit of sickness and a long doctor's bill may be the penalty of neglect. If your druggist hasn't it write to the doctor at Rondout, N. Y. Price $1.00

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"THE DOCTOR TOLD ME

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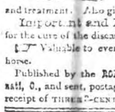
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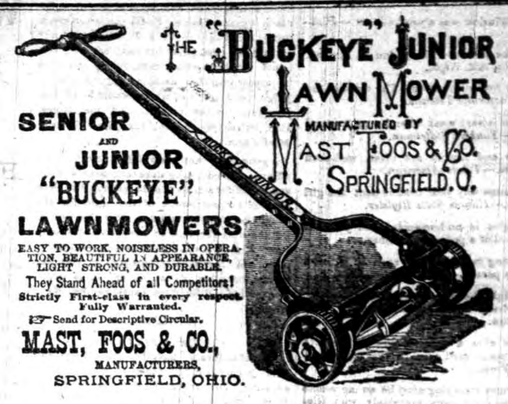
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